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Future Soviet Military Capability Assessed By Defense Planners

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird says the Soviet Union has the capability of achieving by the mid 1970's, a superiority over the presently authorized and programmed forces of the United States in all areas.

Speaking to the Florida Unipress Association in Panama City, Fla., April 25, Secretary Laird said this superiority would include, "offensive strategic forces, defensive strategic forces and conventional forces."

Mr. Laird said he arrived at this conclusion through "defense planning," which he said, "represents an informed judgment that can serve as the basis for responsible recommendations to the President and the Congress on our defense program."

He said two critical factors in defense planning are the rapid rate of technological progress and the time requirements for production of weapons systems. "These two factors taken together require us to begin work on major weapons systems as long as five or 10 years before they

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ROTC Is Vital to Nation's Total Security

The Department of Defense continues to believe that ROTC is an important element of this Nation's total national security effort.

In addition, it wants to see its value strengthened—both to students and to the nation—and is prepared to consider changes which would improve this program at individual schools.

But the Defense Department is not prepared to see the ROTC program degraded in any way.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, in a prepared statement, said, "I am confident that the administration, faculty, and students of the vast majority of our colleges and universities where ROTC is conducted, share this viewpoint."

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Roger T. Kelley, at a news conference April 29 read Secretary Laird's state-

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

CITED—Harold Russell, chairman, presents the President's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped Commendation to Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, during a ceremony at the Pentagon. Secretary Laird was cited for service "in behalf of our handicapped citizens" while a member of the Congress.

U.S. Forces in Vietnam Praised, Young Men Cited for Attitude

"During my career as a soldier, I have served with many of the youth of our nation. None have been finer or more representative of American ideals than those whom it has been my privilege to lead in carrying out our national policies in Vietnam."

Those are the words of Gen. William C. Westmoreland, Army Chief of Staff, who also sees U.S. Armed Forces personnel matching "wits and skills" with a determined foe, and showing themselves to be winners.

He also sees these young men demonstrating their compassion for—and deep understanding of—the Vietnamese people.

Speaking at the memorial hospital dedication dinner in Worcester, Mass., April 13, he praised U.S. forces in Vietnam and said they have "demonstrated by their attitude and conduct" that they are for the Vietnamese people.

"By teaching the Vietnamese to help themselves and by giving them the opportunity to shoulder their own responsibilities, they have raised the dignity of the Vietnamese people. At the same time, they have helped overcome the apathy and indifference which followed in the wake of 90 years of colonial domination."

The former commander in Vietnam told his audience that if they detected an unbound pride in his accounting for the U.S. forces in Vietnam they were correct.

He continued, "No one who has known them—or who has seen them perform—could hold them in other than the highest esteem.

"In my judgment, every American can be proud of what these young

(Continued on Page 3, Column 1)

CONFERENCE—U.S. military leaders and key German state government officials discuss topics of mutual interest during annual meeting of the German-American Advisory Council of Land Hesse at Wiesbaden, Germany. Left to right are Lt. Gen. Robert N. Smith, United States Air Forces in Europe vice commander; Willi Birkelbach, undersecretary, Minister President's Office; Lt. Gen. John A. Heintges, Seventh Army deputy commander; Lt. Gen. Andrew J. Boyle, V Corps commanding general; and Alfred Flick, under secretary, Ministry of Justice, Hesse. Conference was held in April.

ROTC Is Vital to Nation's Total Security

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ment on ROTC to newsmen and said most colleges and universities would like to see the ROTC programs continued with appropriate adjustments.

Secretary Laird said, "I believe it is particularly important at this time for the American public to understand the viewpoint of the Department of Defense toward Reserve Officer Training Corps activities at more than 350 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

"The nation has a need to structure our officer corps so that it represents a broad blend from various sources, including the Service Academies, ROTC programs, college graduate Officer Training Schools, and men and women commissioned from enlisted ranks.

"We can, thereby, not only make leadership opportunities available to a significant percentage of our youth but also provide added assurance for sound, responsible, and representative military leadership in the future.

"As a part of this broad base, the ROTC system has proven of great value to our nation. The ROTC program combines the outstanding resources and sound traditions of our colleges and universities with those of the military services. This vital interplay of civilian university and military training is the essence of the ROTC program," the Secretary of Defense continued.

"The total ROTC enrollment at schools where recent demonstrations have occurred represent a very small portion of the approximately 200,000 young men now enrolled in ROTC. Last year we had more than 21,000 ROTC graduates, the highest in our history. I am also advised that the quality of those graduates was better than ever before."

(At his news conference, Assistant Secretary of Defense Kelley noted that 50,000 officers enter the Armed Forces each year through courses other than the ROTC program.)

We believe the ROTC programs are better than ever before, Secretary Laird said. "Just as the civilian schools continually adjust our curriculum and teaching methods to improve the quality and scope of education," he said, "so do we in the Department of Defense make similar adjustments in the ROTC program.

"We have worked with, and hope to continue working with all schools affiliated with the ROTC to insure the best possible education for our officer corps."

Secretary Laird noted that in recent weeks there have been demonstrations on college campuses, caused in part by opposition to ROTC. Such issues as curriculum content, teaching methods, and faculty status can be addressed and resolved jointly with the schools involved.

The issues on those few campuses where opposition to ROTC has been manifested go further, Secretary Laird said.

"Those schools are threatened by denial of the opportunity to provide a portion of our future national leadership. The nation, and the Military Services, would suffer a loss if any part of the civilian academic community declined that opportunity."

Pamphlet on Soviet Union Prepared by Dept. of Army

The Department of the Army has published the third bibliographic survey prepared on the subject of Soviet Russia.

The 235-page Department of the Army Pamphlet 550-6 contains 1,000 abstracts of unclassified literature. It "is intended to serve both the needs of the experts with responsibility for policy and strategy, as well as those who simply need descriptive information about the Soviet Union."

Various charts and large size maps supplement information contained in the publication.

The pamphlet is available through publications distribution officers of all services by special order.

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Two New Appointees Named To Reserve Policy Board

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has appointed two new members to three-year terms as members of the Reserve Forces Policy Board. They are: RAdm. Chester H. Taylor, Jr., USNR, and Maj. Gen. J. Clarence Davies, Jr., USAFR. The succeed RAdm. Robert W. Copeland and Maj. Gen. Frank T. McCoy, whose terms have expired.

The board, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs), serves as the principal policy adviser to the Secretary of Defense on matters pertaining to the reserve components.

The Board, composed of 21 members, a majority of whom are officers of general and flag rank from each reserve component of the Armed Forces, meets at the call of its present civilian chairman, Mr. John Slezak, a former Under Secretary of the Army.

U.S. Forces in Vietnam

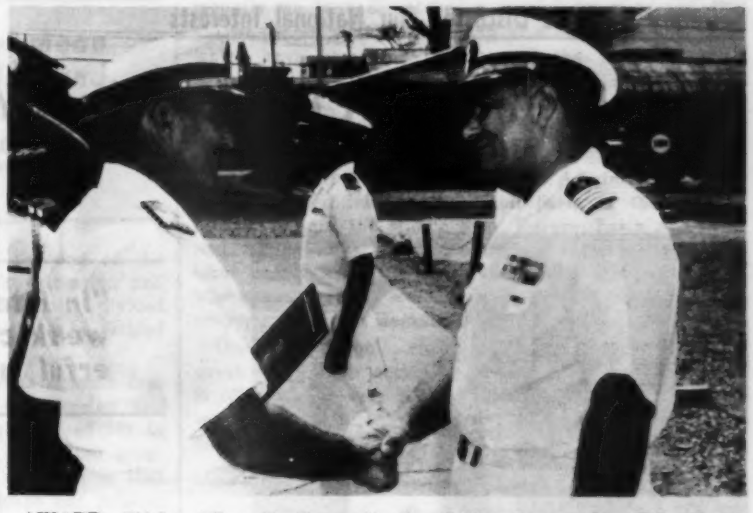
(Continued From Page 1)

men and women have done and are doing. They have willingly stepped forward when their country called; they have shouldered responsibility while a few others of their age have sat idly by and dreamed.

"Unlike these few contemporaries who have chosen to demonstrate their apparent disrespect for authority, these young people have demonstrated their great sense of responsibility under the most difficult conditions."

Gen. Westmoreland said these young people have given much of themselves, and then added: "In time of their country's need, they turned to—not against those lofty principles on which our nation was founded—those same principles that have sustained our nation throughout the years. I welcome them as our future leaders. I thank The Almighty for them."

He said there was one thing for certain—these young people can return to civilian life and be proud. "They can stand tall; they can proudly take their place with the veterans before them with the same sense of satisfaction."



AWARD—VAdm. Elmo R. Zumwalt, Jr. (left), Commander U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, presents Navy Unit Commendation to Capt. Louis K. Payne, commanding officer, Military Sea Transportation Service Office (MSTS), Vietnam. This was first MSTS unit to receive the award.

Army Ready To Discuss ROTC Academic Programs at Colleges

The Army is willing at any time to discuss and work out a mutually satisfactory ROTC academic program at colleges and universities, provided the institution wants to have the program and is willing to support it.

An Army Fact Sheet states that educational philosophies and concepts have changed considerably in recent years and accordingly the ROTC curriculum has undergone and is continuing to undergo transformation.

"The Army's objective is to keep the ROTC curriculum as flexible as possible," it said.

In outlining the ROTC program, the Army said that ROTC is one of the main resources for both Regular and Army Reserve officers, and it is the largest and least expensive precommissioning system.

The Army said commissions from ROTC rose from 10,727 in the school year 1966-67, to 14,176 for 1967-68. The projected figure for the current school year is 16,606.

For comparison, the Army reported that in school year 1967-68, the U. S. Military Academy graduated 674 officers and Officer Candidate Schools turned out 18,355 officers.

There now are three curricula for Army ROTC:

- **OPTION A**—Deals mainly with purely military subjects and is used by 15 percent of the institutions.
- **OPTION B**—This allows a substitution of 25 percent academic subjects for military subjects. This has been widely accepted and currently is the program now used by 80 percent of colleges with ROTC.
- **OPTION C**—This option is being developed now at 11 institutions. This plan presents the basic course of instruction in a manner which will insure its being accorded academic credit on a par with other courses offered at the institution. The freshman course acquaints the student with the basic concepts of warfare and the problems of national defense through study of the main developments in the history of war. The sophomore course examines the concept of military force.

Secretary of State Discusses Our National Interests

U.S. Foreign Policy: Five Major Issues

Secretary of State William P. Rogers

On April 16 Secretary of State William P. Rogers addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Here are excerpts from his speech.

Fortunately or unfortunately, many of the events in the world directly or indirectly affect us and the attitude of the United States toward such events is of importance. Whether it is the fact that some fish are leaving the waters around Iceland, which adversely affects their economy, or the fact of an attempted coup in Equatorial Guinea, to some degree we are involved or our involvement is sought.

The United States is the world's greatest military and economic and technological power; and there is no way

"In international affairs, the weak can be rash; the powerful must be restrained."

to isolate ourselves from the responsibilities that go with that position.

It is understandable that the weight of great responsibility gives rise to certain concerns. These concerns are likely to be expressed in demands for a clear, comprehensive and consistent foreign policy that neatly defines and sensibly limits our national interests.

The difficulty is that we have a great variety of national interests—that some situations are intractable and others are fluid—and that unpredictable events arise which refuse to fit neatly into any preconceived notions of how much or how little the United States should be involved.

Let me illustrate the point by brief reference to five problems which have concerned this Administration during our first three months in office.

Vietnam: Negotiations for Peace

First, in Vietnam we are directly involved in military operations. We are seeking to negotiate a settlement which for the first time in twenty years would establish peaceful conditions in Southeast Asia. We are trying to bring about a peace that will permit the people of South Vietnam to decide their own future. Such a development would permit us, in consultation with our allies and at the appropriate time, to end our military operations. No issue more concerns United States diplomacy at the present time than this one.

Berlin: Political, Military Involvement

Second, in Berlin we are involved both politically and through the presence of U.S. troops, militarily. Berlin

"Great power does not mean great freedom of action and decision. On the contrary, it often means very narrow choices of action . . ."

has been a special responsibility since the end of the Second World War and has required the attention and action of every Administration since. It—and a divided Germany—are at the heart of the problem of a divided Europe.

Only last month there were harassments against free access to Berlin. And just last week the Foreign and Defense Ministers of NATO urged continued efforts to explore the possibility of "ordered and negotiated progress" toward normalizing the situation surrounding that city. We cannot and do not seek to escape our present responsibility which derives directly from our role in World War II.

Middle East: Diplomatic Involvement

Third, in the Middle East, we are not involved militarily, but there is always a danger, as the President has pointed out, that we might be drawn into a renewed conflict. So the United States is actively engaged in a diplomatic effort to achieve not just a new armistice but a lasting peace. Our interests in friendly relations with all states in the area, and our commitment to removing sources of world tension require us, we believe, to work in whatever way we can to bolster the United Nations' efforts toward that end.

Peru: Economic Involvement

Fourth, in Peru the United States is involved in one of those difficult economic problems which sometimes occur among neighbors and friends. The dynamic of the American industrial and economic system has generated extensive foreign investment. Such a development sometimes creates misunderstandings. When it does we must seek to resolve them amicably and fairly with full respect for the rights of all concerned. The true involvement we and Latin Americans have with each other, and the only one we seek, is the involvement of constructive cooperation—and that is true in this matter.

Nigeria: Humanitarian Involvement

Fifth, in the civil war in Nigeria, we are not militarily, politically, or economically involved and we have resisted pressures to become so. However, we are deeply involved in a humanitarian effort. Our government has extended over $32 million worth of food and medical supplies to the needs in that area of the world. More recently we have dispatched a special envoy to expedite aid to people who are starving and break the log jams which have hampered the flow of the ample supplies which are available. We will continue to resist getting involved politically but we will continue our humanitarian involvement and do all we can to prevent disease and starvation.

So in its first three months this Administration has been projected into affairs in all parts of the world—Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Europe, Latin American and Africa—into old and new issues—issues that are local, regional, and global in character—into matters for which there is no exact formula for determining the proper measure of United States activity or responsibility.

One lesson is quite clear. Great power does not mean great freedom of action and decision. On the contrary, it often means very narrow choices of action, and what we can do to influence events in a given case well may be marginal.

"Convey to the American people a clear sense of the complexity and unpredictability of world affairs."

We can work for peaceful settlement in Vietnam; but we cannot negotiate a peace without serious response from the other side.

We can probe for formulas to reconcile issues in the Middle East; but no formula will work without the agreement of the principals.

We can develop suggestions to ease relations with Communist China; but little will happen if the Chinese Communists choose not to talk to us.

We can reach the conclusion that it makes no sense to go on with a nuclear arms race; but an agreement to stop it requires reciprocal and reasonable decisions by both sides.

We can send food to starving people; but a full stomach is no cure for ancient tribal animosities.

So in international affairs, the weak can be rash; the powerful must be restrained. What complexity in world affairs should teach us is the need to act responsibly, to substitute cooperation for coercion, and to move from confrontation to negotiation of the issues that divide nations.

In case you forget to ask me what newspaper editors can do for the Secretary of State, let me answer by saying that you can continue to convey to the American people a clear sense of the complexity and unpredictability of world affairs—that our involvement inescapably flows from our position, our interests and our responsibilities in the world—and that however discouraging it may seem at times, we must never despair in our constant search for peace.

Airborne Lighting System To Aid Fighting Units

Development of a new Airborne Battlefield Light Equipment System (ABLES) by the U.S. Army Combat Developments Command Aviation Agency at Fort Rucker, Ala., promises Army airmobile units new fighting capabilities in night offensive and defensive operations.

The Army said ABLES will show up enemy units by lighting an area 300 meters in diameter from an altitude of 1500 feet. CDC pointed out that the new system will eliminate the need for unreliable flares and provide a degree of illumination that will give attacking air units daylight effectiveness.

When fully developed, the Army envisions that this system will be self-contained and weigh only 800 pounds including lights, power source, and fuel supply.

A FIRST—The battleship USS New Jersey fires her nine 16-inch battery toward a target in Vietnam. This was the first time since recommissioning that all nine guns were fired simultaneously. The New Jersey was recommissioned April 6, 1968. The New Jersey is returning home this month. The battleship's commanding officer is Captain J. Edward Snyder Jr.

Future Soviet Military Capability Assessed By Defense Planners

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actually become operational. This makes it necessary to try to anticipate what kind of a situation we will face during that time period in terms of the threat from potential enemies."

Mr. Laird stressed that the second thing the defense planner must recognize is the difference between a potential enemy's intentions and his capabilities. "It should be obvious that any attempt to determine what the other fellow's intentions will be five years from now—or even at the present time—is a futile exercise.

"Even if we could monitor his thoughts—and we cannot—we could not place reliance on them because he might be replaced by other decision-makers. Nevertheless, we must recognize our own potential for influencing his intentions by our actions."

He said that the principal guage for assessing what we might face five or 10 years from now from a potential enemy is, "to determine what his capability is today and, based on that, what it can be in the future."

Mr. Laird pointed out that we must begin with known facts and with our current methods of intelligence gathering, we learn with a relatively high degree of accuracy, what a potential enemy has in the way of military forces, what he is testing, what he is constructing, and the present and past rates at which he has proven his ability to perform.

He said that even this amount of knowledge cannot always tell us the precise capability of his force. "Our minimum goal must be to prepare responsibly to defend our nation and to insure as best we can our continued capability to deter nuclear war.

"To do so, we must at the very least consider the potential enemy's capability determined by projecting his current level of activity in the weapons field."

He said arguments are often made that a potential enemy will not maintain his current level of military development or production, but is almost invariably based on some premise as to what that enemy's intentions are. "This could lead to a maj and irretrievable miscalculation if o judgment on intentions proves fault

"From a defense planner's stan point, it would be much more realist to allow for the possibility of an i crease from his present level of effo to a higher one.

"As a matter of fact, it is a failu to recognize this capability for i crease that has most often caus our estimates in past years to be i accurate. If a mistake in assessi the potential threat is to be made, would be far safer to err on the si of over-estimating the threat.

"The consequences could be ve grave if instead we based our pla on the hope that the potential ene will scale down his level of effort a that hope fails to materialize.

"In planning, therefore, we mu compute the size and nature of t threat by projecting the current le of effort of a potential enemy. doing this we must grant him a le of technology which is based on past and present levels of acco plishment."

Mr. Rabon, left, congratulated by Assistant Secretary Moot

Treasury Department Employee Receives DOD Award

Hampton A. Rabon of the Treasury Department has received the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award and is the first individual not employed or temporarily assigned to the Defense Department to receive the award.

The presentation was made by Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) Robert C. Moot during a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Mr. Rabon has been actively engaged in providing banking and financial guidance to the Department of Defense for 25 years.

He set up the first military banking facility at Fort Sill, Okla., in the early 1940's and continued with the program until there are now more than 500 banks, branches and military banking facilities serving the U.S. serviceman throughout the world.

26 New Research Programs Under Project THEMIS

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird has approved the selection of 26 new research programs for Project THEMIS at universities in the United States.

The name THEMIS is from the legendary Greek goddess of the Law and Harmony of Physical Phenomona.

Project THEMIS was initiated two years ago to develop new scientific centers of excellence at academic institutions in response to long-range scientific and technological needs

The project has two complementary objectives: 1—the development of new centers of excellence capable of contributing basic knowledge towards the solution of important defense problems in the future; 2—a wider geographical distribution of defense research funds, giving preference to institutions receiving little or no DOD support.

Ten are Navy projects and eight each are for the Army and the Air Force.

Air Force Network Of 'Super Radar' Is Operational

A new phased-array radar, the first electronic sensor specifically designed to detect and track objects in space, is operational at Elgin AFB, Fla.

Termed a "super radar" by the Air Force, it is a major facilitity of Spacetrack, which is an Air Force network of electronic and optical sensors for space tracking. Spacetrack is operated by the Air Defense Command's Fourteenth Aerospace Force.

The new radar stands about 13 stories high and its sloping side, larger than a football field, houses thousands of small antennae imbedded in a protective cover.

The Air Force said that phased-array radar is "super," not for its physical size, but because it performs the functions of numerous radars simultaneously.

It is the first application of the phased array radar principle wherein a beam of energy from many transmitters is directed electronically without the need for the familiar rotating and rocking antennae of conventional radars.

Another first, the Air Force said, is that the new system is operated and maintained solely by Air Force personnel. Other sensors depend upon civilian contractor technicians for significant portions of operations and maintenance tasks.

Detection and tracking information gathered by the phased array is relayed to the North American Air Defense Command Space Defense Center inside Cheyenne Mountain near Colorado Springs, Colo.

During this country's space shots, Spacetrack information is used by NASA, providing them with positions of orbiting space objects which astronauts may pass in orbit.

The radar also serves as an adjunct to ADC's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System.

Greater Role For Services In Budget Planning; Secretary Laird Discusses Compensation Plan

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird believes the military departments have to play a greater role in justifying their budget requests.

Appearing on the Department of Defense's "Pentagon Forum" television program, Secretary Laird said he hopes to give the individual services greater voice in presenting their budget to Congress.

He said the Secretary of each service and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff "should have greater responsibility for carrying forward and justifying their budgets before the Congressional committees."

Secretary Laird also talked about compensation, retention, ROTC, anti-ballistic missile system, and demonstrations on campuses.

The secretary said various changes are being proposed in the Hubbell Pay Plan, including increases for lower grades. The 100-page plan is now being reviewed.

He said the plan will be forwarded to Congress later this year, with early action hoped for in the second session.

Secretary Laird explained that the plan was not presented to Congress this session, because it may have delayed the July 1 pay increase.

It is possible that provisions of the Hubbell Plan could become effective July 1, 1970.

Regarding retention, the secretary noted competition from the outside is great. He explained that the services make great investments in training, and "we need these people in the military service."

Secretary Laird added that it is necessary to keep the services attractive enough so people will stay. A study on retention is being conducted, with recommendations expected the next two-three months.

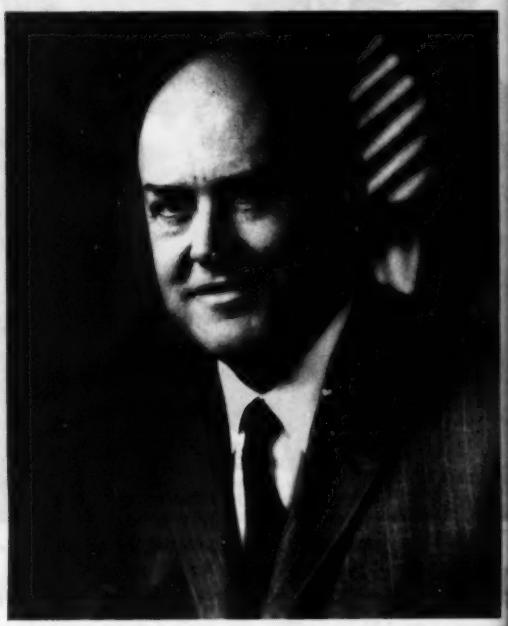
As for ROTC and demonstrations on campuses, the secretary said many people have been confused over the reason we are involved in Vietnam. He said, "Our sense of purpose as far as this war, and as far as our commitment, must be clearly defined. President Nixon is trying to restore that sense of purpose as far as our country is concerned."

Some statements about the war have always been overly optimistic, he said, and misled some of the people that a solution was just around the corner.

He stated, "The kind of actions that are taking place in stopping recruiting of top people for military services, whether it be on college campuses or any other place in the U.S., don't serve the cause of our national security and certainly do not lend well the movement of volunteer forces in the U.S. This is one of the great disappointments and one of the things we must solve."

Regarding career progression for present members of the armed services, Secretary Laird said, "it is important to keep options open for enlisted men to move into the officer category if they desire to move in that direction."

While talking about the anti-ballistic missile system, the secretary expressed hope for arms talks with t Soviet Union. He noted that it is necessary to enter t talks with a "position of strength, not weakness."



Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird

Secretary Laird said members of the NATO Allia have been briefed on the ABM program.

He continued, "Our NATO friends understand quite w how important it is to maintain creditability of our det rent force if we are going to prevent nuclear war in t time period of the 1970's.

"And in order to preserve the peace during that p ticular time period it's necessary for us to have a cred able second strike deterrent. This is the way to prot our people, this is the way to protect our cities. And believe that we have good support from our NATO allie

The secretary emphasized that it would be a gr mistake to disgard the ABM system.

In another area, Secretary Laird said that many lesso were being learned in Vietnam that can be used to h in areas of social concern in this country.

He noted that national security is the primary miss of the Defense Department, but the department can h in social needs.

The secretary said, "DOD will cooperate in every w possible in making contributions toward better life home, better medical treatment, better health, better e cation, better opportunities for underprivileged."

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